

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 presently stand rejected.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for being allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner has suggested that Applicant change “method” to --computer implemented methods-- [sic] in the preamble to overcome the outstanding rejection.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kretschmann (USP 6,167,464) and claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are yet further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by “Michaloski”, *Software Models for Standardizing the Human-Machine Interface Connection to a Machine Controller*.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests favorable disposition of the application.

Argument

§101 Rejection

In regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2 and 4-6 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

§102 Rejection

In regard to claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record does not teach or even suggest deploying a plurality of parallel instances of the control program to a respective plurality of thin client terminals over a network, as recited in independent claim 1. As disclosed in the specification, one advantage of deploying a number of

parallel instances of the control program is that the corresponding number of thin clients can be operated by users independently. See, for example, page 3, lines 17 to 22.

In contrast, Kretschmann discloses a system and a method in which the HMI may not hold any application programs, but instead, upon identification of the HMI by the central processor, the central processor may identify one or more applications to be downloaded to the HMI. (Col. 7, lines 23-27). Applicant respectfully submits that Kretschmann, thus, discloses a completely different method and system than that which is claimed. In particular, a number of different applications may well be run on a central processor and, depending on different use cases by operators of HMI clients, these different applications may be downloaded to the corresponding HMI. This is completely different from the system of the present application in which a number of parallel instances of the same control program are deployed on a central server and thus available for thin clients.

In regard to Michaloski, Applicant submits that the feature of parallel instances of a control program is not disclosed in Michaloski. For example, on page 6 in the paragraph with the headline "Distributed Components", Michaloski discloses a distributed component based approach in which instead of a single data server, each controller component provides its own data services through a proxy server. The controller component exposes COM interfaces and the HMI can bind to a COM component anywhere, be it in-process, local-process or remote process. Applicant respectfully submits that the disclosure of Michaloski is completely different from that which is disclosed and claimed in the present application in which a number of parallel instances of the control program are deployed.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/812,205

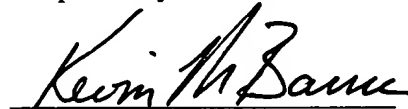
For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest all of the required elements of claims 1, 2 and 4-6. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1, 2, and 4-6 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the application is believed to be in form for immediate allowance with claims 1, 2 and 4-6, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to **contact the undersigned** at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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